

Specification

The Office Action objects to the disclosure based on several informalities.

First, the Office Action alleges that the RELATED APPLICATIONS section is missing co-pending applications. Applicant has a large number of co-pending applications. The Office Action fails to identify any particular applications that might be listed in the RELATED APPLICATIONS section. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify the particular applications to which this objection is directed.

Second, the Office Action alleges that portions of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION section need to be moved into the BACKGROUND section. The DETAILED DESCRIPTION section includes both a general introduction to the invention as well as more detailed discussions of components, procedures, and the like. Applicant submits that the information contained in the DETAILED DESCRIPTION section is appropriate. Applicant further notes that the Office Action fails to identify any portion of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION section that is deemed inappropriate.

Third, the Office Action alleges that the BACKGROUND section must contain all the known prior art subject matter. The Office Action further alleges that the BACKGROUND section does not provide any background and rather provides information about the invention itself. Again, the Office Action fails to identify any language or statements in the BACKGROUND section that are not appropriate. Applicant notes that the BACKGROUND section discusses computer systems that perform various tasks - an appropriate discussion for the BACKGROUND section. Further, Applicant notes that the BACKGROUND

section discusses existing systems that generate events – also an appropriate discussion for the BACKGROUND section.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Title

The Office Action alleges that the title of the invention is not descriptive. The Office Action fails to explain why the title is not descriptive and fails to provide any suggested amendment to the title. Applicant submits that the title "Method and Apparatus for Event Distribution and Event Handling in an Enterprise" is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicant fails to understand why the Examiner believes the title of the invention is not descriptive.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the title of the invention be withdrawn.

Abstract

The Office Action objects to the Abstract of the disclosure because it is missing key terms involved in the invention and is not properly understood. The Office Action fails to identify any of the alleged "missing key terms". Applicant notes that the terms used in the Abstract are the same as those used to claim the invention. Additionally, the terms used in the Abstract are used in the Detailed Description and the accompanying drawings.

The Office Action also states that the Abstract does not clearly state the goal of the invention. Applicant submits that the current Abstract complies with MPEP §608.01(b) by describing the components of and the operation of an event distribution and event handling system.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the Abstract of the disclosure be withdrawn.

Drawing Objection

The Office Action alleges that Fig. 1 should be designated by a legend such as -- Prior Art -- because only that which is old is illustrated. The Office Action fails to provide any support for this assertion and fails to identify any documents or other information that show the elements of Fig. 1. Applicant submits that Fig. 1 is not prior art and should not be labeled as such. For example, Windows Management Instrumentation Module 106 shown in Fig. 1 is not old, as alleged in the Office Action. Accordingly, the suggested drawing correction is improper.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action requests that the Applicant provide information regarding prior art that led to the invention under 37 CFR 1.105. As permitted under 37 CFR 1.105(b), the requested prior art was submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a separate communication mailed March 1, 2004 (after the mailing date of the current Office Action). Applicant respectfully submits that

the prior art submitted on March 1, 2004 satisfies the request for information under 37 CFR 1.105.

35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action alleges that claims 1-15 and 22-27 lack insufficient antecedent basis for certain claim limitations.

In particular, in claims 1-10, the Office Action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “first event filter” and “second event filter”. As recited in claim 1, the first occurrence of “first event filter” is preceded by “a”. All subsequent occurrences of “first event filter” in claims 1-10 are preceded by “the”, thereby providing proper antecedent basis. As recited in claim 1, the first occurrence of “second event filter” is preceded by “a”. All subsequent occurrences of “second event filter” in claims 1-10 are preceded by “the”, thereby providing proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 1-10 provide proper antecedent basis for the identified claim limitations.

In claims 11-15, the Office Action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “first format” and “second format”. As recited in claim 1, the first occurrence of “first format” is preceded by “a”. Similarly, as recited in claim 1, the first occurrence of “second format” is preceded by “a”. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 11-15 provide proper antecedent basis for the identified claim limitations.

In claims 22-27, the Office Action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “first event”, “first data format”, “second event”, and “second data format”. As recited in claim 1, the first occurrence of each of these terms is

preceded by "a". All subsequent occurrences of the corresponding term in claims 22-27 are preceded by "the", thereby providing proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 22-27 provide proper antecedent basis for the identified claim limitations.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §112, First Paragraph rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-27 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. For example, the Office Action alleges that the terms "filter criteria", "event payload", "event header" and "event consumer" render the claims indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that these terms adequately point out the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant notes that the allegedly indefinite terms are used throughout the Detailed Description section as well as the drawings. Applicant submits that using terms in the claims that are used in the Detailed Description section and the drawings is proper.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §112, Second Paragraph rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 – O'Brien

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,470,384 to O'Brien et al. (hereinafter "O'Brien"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-27 are not anticipated by O'Brien.

O'Brien discloses:

A system and a method for configuring an action set for use in dynamically processing network events in a distributed computing environment are described. A graphical user interface associated with an action set is presented. An action set is stored into a database. At least one network event and at least one sensor are associated responsive to a user selection indicated on the graphical user interface. At least one action is embedded into the action set responsive to a user selection indicated on the graphical user interface. The association for the at least one network event and the embedding of the at least one action are stored into a mapping table. O'Brien Abstract.

The modular framework for configuring action sets described in O'Brien is different from the claims of the present application.

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:
 receiving a first event at a first event filter, the first event filter having an associated filter criteria;
 applying the filter criteria associated with the first event filter to the first event;
 if the first event satisfies the filter criteria associated with the first event filter, then:
 transforming the first event into a second event; and
 communicating the second event to a second event filter having an associated filter criteria, the second event filter being associated with an event consumer, wherein the event consumer performs an action if the second event satisfies the filter criteria associated with the second event filter.

Although O'Brien discloses a network manager 25 that receives network events 7 (see Fig. 2 of O'Brien), O'Brien fails to disclose or suggest "... transforming the

first event into a second event; and communicating the second event to a second event filter having an associated filter criteria, the second event filter being associated with an event consumer" as recited in claim 1. O'Brien discloses event filters 40, but fails to mention transforming a first event into a second event, which is communicated to a second event filter.

The Office Action alleges support for transforming the first event into a second event by citing "mapping of network events 7 to actions 32". Office Action, Page 8. The mapping of network events 7 to actions 32 discussed in O'Brien is not the same as transforming the first event into a second event. As claim 1 further states, "the second event filter being associated with an event consumer, wherein the event consumer performs an action if the second event satisfies the filter criteria associated with the second event filter." Thus, as recited in claim 1, the first event is transformed into the second event, which may cause an event consumer to perform an action if the second event satisfies the filter criteria associated with the second event filter. Thus, the language in claim 1 is not a mere mapping of network events to actions. Instead, the elements of claim 1 are different from the disclosure in O'Brien.

Accordingly, O'Brien fails to disclose the elements of claim 1. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over O'Brien. Given that claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over O'Brien for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 11 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:
receiving a first event having a first format;
transforming the first event into a second event having a second format, wherein transforming the first event into a second event comprises:
generating an event header having a plurality of parameters, wherein the plurality of parameters are arranged in a standard data format; and
generating an event payload having a plurality of payload objects, wherein the plurality of payload objects identify at least one action to perform in response to the event.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, O'Brien fails to disclose transforming the first event into a second event. Further, O'Brien fails to disclose "... wherein transforming the first event into a second event comprises: generating an event header ... and generating an event payload having a plurality of payload objects" as recited in claim 11. Since O'Brien fails to disclose transforming a first event into a second event, O'Brien makes no mention of how the first event is transformed into a second event by generating an event header and an event payload.

Accordingly, O'Brien fails to disclose the elements of claim 11. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable over O'Brien. Given that claims 12-15 depend from claim 11, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over O'Brien for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 16 of the present application recites:

An apparatus comprising:
 an event transformer to receive a first event and transform the first event into a second event, the second event having a standard data format regardless of the first event data format;
 a plurality of event filters coupled to the event transformer, the event filters to apply filter criteria to the second event; and
 a plurality of event consumers coupled to the plurality of event filters, the event consumers to perform an action if the second event satisfies the filter criteria applied by the event filters.

The O'Brien reference fails to disclose "an event transformer to receive a first event and transform the first event into a second event...." as recited in claim 16. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, O'Brien fails to disclose transforming a first event into a second event. Accordingly, Applicant submits that O'Brien is silent as to an event transformer. Although O'Brien discloses a manager 25, the manager 25 does not transform a first event into a second event.

Accordingly, O'Brien fails to disclose the elements of claim 16. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable over O'Brien. Given that claims 17-21 depend from claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over O'Brien for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 22 of the present application recites:

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:
 receive a first event having a first data format;

filter the first event using a first filter criteria;
 transform the first event into a second event having a second data format if the first event satisfies the first filter criteria, wherein the second data format includes an event header having a plurality of parameters and an event payload having a plurality of payload objects; and
 communicate the second event to an event action handler if the first event satisfies the first filter criteria.

The O'Brien reference fails to disclose a processor that transforms "the first event into a second event having a second data format ... wherein the second data format includes an event header ... and an event payload...." as recited in claim 22. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, O'Brien fails to disclose transforming a first event into a second event. Further, as discussed above with respect to claim 11, O'Brien does not disclose how the first event is transformed into a second event having an event header and an event payload.

Accordingly, O'Brien fails to disclose the elements of claim 22. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is allowable over O'Brien. Given that claims 23-27 depend from claim 22, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over O'Brien for at least the reasons discussed above.

35 U.S.C. § 102 – Wold

Claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,589 to Ivar Wold (hereinafter "Wold"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 22 are not anticipated by Wold.

Wold discloses:

A development system providing a property-method-event programming (PME) model for developing context-free reusable software components is described. Despite the absence of any C++ language support for events, the present invention provides a type-safe "wiring" mechanism--one using standard C++ to dispatch an event, raised by one object (the "event source"), to a method of another object (the "event sink"), with the requirement that the event source does not need to know the class of the event sink. As a result, the system allows developers to create C++ software components which can be connected together without the components having to know anything about the makeup of the component to which it is connected. Thus, developers can create pre-packaged, reusable software components which can simply be "plugged into" a design--all accomplished within the confines of the standard C++ programming language (i.e., without having to employ proprietary extensions).

Wold Abstract.

The development system described in the Wold reference is different from the claims of the present application.

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:
 receiving a first event at a first event filter, the first event filter having an associated filter criteria;
 applying the filter criteria associated with the first event filter to the first event;
 if the first event satisfies the filter criteria associated with the first event filter, then:
 transforming the first event into a second event; and
 communicating the second event to a second event filter having an associated filter criteria, the second event filter being associated with an event consumer, wherein the event consumer performs an action if the second event satisfies the filter criteria associated with the second event filter.

Wold fails to disclose or suggest "... transforming the first event into a second event" as recited in claim 1. Wold discloses that a single event may be "passed along an event chain 710 to successive objects, some of which may elect to act upon the event." Col. 9, lines 61-63. However, Wold fails to mention transforming a first event into a second event, as recited in claim 1. Merely communicating a single event between successive objects (as disclosed in Wold) is very different from transforming a first event into a second event.

Accordingly, Wold fails to disclose the elements of claim 1. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Wold. Given that claim 10 depends from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is likewise allowable over Wold for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 11 of the present application recites:

A method comprising:
receiving a first event having a first format;
transforming the first event into a second event having a second format, wherein transforming the first event into a second event comprises:
generating an event header having a plurality of parameters, wherein the plurality of parameters are arranged in a standard data format; and
generating an event payload having a plurality of payload objects, wherein the plurality of payload objects identify at least one action to perform in response to the event.

Applicant submits that Wold fails to disclose transforming a first event into a second event having a second format, as recited in claim 11. As discussed above

with reference to claim 1, Wold fails to mention any type of event transformation. Further, Wold fails to disclose "... wherein transforming the first event into a second event comprises: generating an event header ... and generating an event payload having a plurality of payload objects" as recited in claim 11. Since Wold fails to disclose transforming a first event into a second event, Wold makes no mention of how the first event is transformed into a second event by generating an event header and an event payload.

Accordingly, Wold fails to disclose the elements of claim 11. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable over Wold. Given that claim 15 depends from claim 11, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is likewise allowable over Wold for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 16 of the present application recites:

An apparatus comprising:

an event transformer to receive a first event and transform the first event into a second event, the second event having a standard data format regardless of the first event data format;

a plurality of event filters coupled to the event transformer, the event filters to apply filter criteria to the second event; and

a plurality of event consumers coupled to the plurality of event filters, the event consumers to perform an action if the second event satisfies the filter criteria applied by the event filters.

The Wold reference fails to disclose "an event transformer to receive a first event and transform the first event into a second event...." as recited in claim 16. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Wold fails to disclose transforming a first

event into a second event. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Wold is silent as to an event transformer.

Accordingly, Wold fails to disclose the elements of claim 16. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable over Wold.

Claim 22 of the present application recites:

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

receive a first event having a first data format;

filter the first event using a first filter criteria;

transform the first event into a second event having a second data format if the first event satisfies the first filter criteria, wherein the second data format includes an event header having a plurality of parameters and an event payload having a plurality of payload objects; and

communicate the second event to an event action handler if the first event satisfies the first filter criteria.

The Wold reference fails to disclose a processor that transforms “the first event into a second event having a second data format ... wherein the second data format includes an event header ... and an event payload....” as recited in claim 22. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Wold fails to disclose transforming a first event into a second event. Further, as discussed above with respect to claim 11, Wold does not disclose how the first event is transformed into a second event having an event header and an event payload.

Accordingly, Wold fails to disclose the elements of claim 22. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is allowable over Wold.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 28-29 are allowable over the O'Brien and Wold references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Claims 1-29 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 5-17-04

By: Steven R. Sponseller
Steven R. Sponseller
Reg. No. 39,384
(509) 324-9256